GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:686
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2005
RECOVERY OF LAND MINES
Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent floods in Jammu and Kashmir have washed away some mines planted along the Indo-Pak border, posing a serious threat to the civilian population living in the area;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the number of such displaced land mines recovered and defused by the security forces so far; and

(d) the further corrective steps taken by the Government for the safety of civilian population?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (c): During the current year recovery of three mines has taken place near Galar village in Jammu and Kashmir. It is possible that these could be part of unrecovered 13 mines which could not be located in Galar minefield despite all efforts.

(d) The civilian population is regularly sensitised about the missing mines and incentives in the form of cash award is also given by the Army formation to anyone providing information about unrecovered/drifted mines. Immediately on recovery of a mine, the area around it is cordoned off and the mine is destroyed at the site itself by the formation engineers, making sure that no civilian casualties take place.